San Joaquin County

WHEREAS: Health Centers are on the front lines of ensuring health care choices, and providing access to care for our nation’s veterans, homeless, and uninsured/fracture population, and are critical to preventing and responding to public health threats in the wake of natural disasters; and

WHEREAS: Health Centers reduce overall costs of care by helping manage patients’ chronic conditions, which keeps them out of costly health care settings, like hospital emergency rooms; and

WHEREAS: Health Centers reduce overall health care system costs, in doing so, improve health care outcomes and reduces health care costs, thus providing greater access to healthcare services, including those for patients with mental health conditions. Health Centers also improve the economic impact of the community, most economically by generating over $5 billion in economic impact in some of the country’s most economically depressed communities; and

WHEREAS: Health Centers serve as critical economic engines, helping to power local economies by providing over 20,000 people, including physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and medical assistants with job and career opportunities, and the health care industry’s total payroll is over $1 million. Health Centers are governed by patient-majority boards, ensuring that the patients of each Health Center are engaged in their own health care decisions; and

WHEREAS: Pharmacy services, to meet the needs and challenges of their communities, and the range of services beyond primary care, including oral health, vision, and behavioral health, and leveraging a wide array of resources to meet the needs of the communities they serve, including mental health services and educational programs; and

WHEREAS: Every day, Health Centers develop new approaches to improving the health of their communities, including the delivery of health care to senior citizens, the medically underserved, the homeless, and the rural poor; and

WHEREAS: Health Centers serve a critical element of the health care system, serving people in the United States. Each Health Center cares for over 7 million Americans in over 10,000 communities across the nation. One in every six people in the United States gets their care in a community health center, and every twelve people in the United States live near an America’s Health Center. These centers are the community’s largest primary care network. Health Centers are the affordable, comprehensive, primary and preventive health care in our nation’s underserved communities, delivering value to, and having a significant impact on America’s health care system and affordability, comprehensive primary and preventive health care in our nation’s underserved communities. Health Centers are the

WHEREAS: For over 50 years, Community Health Centers have provided high-quality,

San Joaquin County

Proclamation

Board of Supervisors